

Japanese priority date of September 8, 2000. Applicant further noted that the effective date for Inoue's Japanese counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-273659 as a reference is its publication date of March 22, 2002. Thus, in light of Applicant's submission of a sworn translation of the present application's priority document Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-318518, filed October 18, 2000, Inoue should be removed as a reference.

The Examiner agreed and stated the outstanding Office Action would be withdrawn. Such action is respectfully requested at this time.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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